

Remarks/Argument

Summary

By this Amendment, claims 1-10 and 18-21 have been revised, and claims 11-17 have been canceled.

Accordingly, claims 1-10 and 18-21 are now pending in the application.

Allowable Claims

Applicants acknowledge with thanks the indicated allowability of claims 1-10 and 18-21. By this Amendment, dependent claims 18-21 have been amended into independent form by incorporating the subject matter of independent claim 11. Accordingly, it is believed that claims 1-10 and 18-21 are in condition for allowance.

Also, by this Amendment, the original claims have been amended to generally improve the clarity thereof. The claim amendments are not for reasons relating to patentability, and instead simply correct minor errors of a typographical and/or grammatical nature.

35 USC 102 and 103

The rejections of claims 11-13 and 17 under 35 USC 102 and 103 have been rendered moot by the cancellation of these claims.

35 USC 112

The rejections of claims 14-17 under 35 USC 112 have been rendered moot by the cancellation of these claims.

Drawings

Submitted herewith are replacement drawings of Figures 17-20 in which these figures have been labeled as PRIOR ART as required by the Examiner.

Also, by this Amendment, the specification has been revised to delete reference number 5a (the pre-etched nitride film) which is not shown in the drawings. It is noted that reference number 5 of the drawings depicts the same nitride film after etching with a mask.

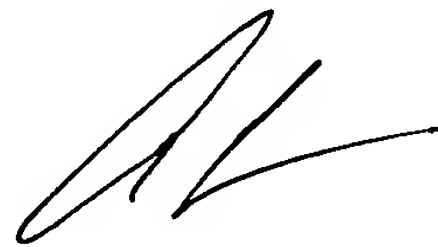
Conclusion

No other issues remaining, reconsideration and favorable action upon the claims 1-10 and 18-21 now-pending in the application are requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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